

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00727 210603Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 DOTE-00 /031 W
-----068107 210608Z /23

R 210600Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4963
FAA WASHINGTON HQ WASHINGTON DC
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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BONN FOR LIVINGSTON; BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, EAIR, CZ
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON MARCH 16-18 FAA VISIT

REFS A. PRAGUE 0671, B. PRAGUE 0567

1. FIVE-MAN FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TEAM VISITED PRAGUE MARCH 16-18 TO MAKE PRESENTATION ON TRSB/MLS SYSTEM TO CZECHOSLOVAK CIVAIR OFFICIALS. FAA TEAM WAS LED BY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR CLYDE PACE AND ALSO INCLUDED GORDON HURST, RICHARD LIVINGSTON, LEO GUMINA AND CARLO YULO. TEAM IS FILING ITS OWN REPORT. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES EMBASSY'S EVALUATION.

2. DESPITE USUAL UNCERTAINTIES AND MANY BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS, GOC IN THE END COOPERATED WELL TO MAKE VISIT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FROM USG POINT OF VIEW. PRESENTATION WAS HELD MORNING OF MARCH 17 AT RUZYNE AIRPORT, AND APPROXIMATELY 13 LOCAL OFFICIALS FROM CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (CAA) AND CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES (CSA) ATTENDED. FAA OFFICIALS WERE PLEASED WITH TURN-OUT AND IMPRESSED BY QUESTIONS, WHICH REFLECTED HIGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEVEL OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE AND KEEN INTEREST OF CZECHOSLOVAKS IN TRSB. CAA ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR PRESENTATION GENERALLY WENT SMOOTHLY.

3. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION, AMBASSADOR GAVE LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE FOR FAA TEAM. ALTHOUGH GEN. PRAVOSLAV KALICKY, CAA DIRECTOR, AND TWO CSA OFFICIALS CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE(A FAMILIAR

PHENOMENON IN PRAGUE) SIX OTHER IMPORTANT CAA AND CSA OFFICIALS DID ATTEND. THEY HAD USEFUL AND AMIABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH VISITORS, LOCAL PAN AM REP COLLINS HAY, AND EMBASSY OFFICERS. THEY ALSO INDICATED PRIVATELY THEY ARE VERY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD TRSB AND HOPE TO SEE IT ADOPTED.

4. EMBASSY HAS DELIBERATELY NOT MENTIONED FAA VISIT TO OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES AND CANNOT SAY FOR CERTAIN WHETHER SIMILAR VISIT BY DOPPLER SYSTEM SUPPORTERS HAS TAKEN PLACE. FAA VISITORS SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS AT PRESENTATION SEEMED PRIMED TO ASK QUESTIONS WHICH DOPPLER PROPAGANDISTS MIGHT HAVE INSPIRED, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD MERELY REFLECT LOCAL FAMILIARITY WITH MLS LITERATURE. WE WILL REPORT ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT WE CAN ON "PRO-DOPPLER" ACTIVITIES HERE AND ON LIKELY GOC POSITION IN ICAO ON MLS.

5. COMMENT: IN SUM, DESPITE CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE-SHOOTING INVOLVED BEFORE VISIT STARTED (REFTELS AND PREVIOUS), EMBASSY WAS PLEASED WITH GOC RESPONSE TO FAA VISIT. CZECHOSLOVAKS, NO DOUBT INFLUENCED BY EVIDENTLY FAVORABLE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD TRSB/MLS, CLEARLY WANTED TO MAKE THE VISIT AS INFORMATIVE FOR THEM AND AS PLEASANT FOR ALL AS POLITICAL REALITIES ALLOW. EMBASSY WAS VERY PLEASED TO COOPERATE WITH FAA IN EFFORT WE FEEL WAS VENEFICIAL FOR ALL CONCERNED.
DECONTROL 3-20-79.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, EXHIBITS, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRAGUE00727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780123-1132
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780342/aaaabjnz.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d3361c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRAGUE 671, 78 PRAGUE 567
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3255250
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON MARCH 16-18 FAA VISIT
TAGS: ETRD, EAIR, CZ, FAA
To: STATE , FAA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d3361c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014